

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Revisions to the WDRs for Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed

BOARD ACTION: *Consider Adoption of Order to revise Waste Discharge Requirements*

BACKGROUND: On 7 December 2012, the board adopted waste discharge requirements for discharges from irrigated lands for growers that are members of the third-party group within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed (Order). The Order was revised on 3 October 2013. On 28 January 2014, staff circulated proposed additional revisions to the Order. No comments were received by the 28 February 2014 deadline.

In the proposed revisions to the Order, the 2014 due dates for Members to submit the first Farm Evaluation and for the third-party to report a summary of management practice information collected as part of Farm Evaluations have been extended by two months. The extension of the 2014 deadlines is proposed to provide the third-party additional time to establish a web-based system for its Members to submit the Farm Evaluations. Development of the web-based system by the third-party was suspended due to potential patent infringement issues if such a system were developed without an agreement with the patent holder. The patent issues related to the web-based system have been resolved. A web-based system is expected to increase the likelihood of compliance, increase the accuracy of the information provided, and enhance the ability of the board and the third-party to readily evaluate and assess the data submitted. Staff proposes to revise the Order so that the first Farm Evaluation would be due by 1 May 2014, and the third-party's summary of management practice information collected as part of Farm Evaluations would be due by 1 July 2014.

RECOMMENDATION Staff recommends adoption of the revised Order.

Mgmt. Review ___JK___
Legal Review ___APM___
27/28 March 2014
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670